SECRET INVASION™

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THE NEW AVENGERS®

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BENDIS • CHEUNG • DELL • PONSOR

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

The New Avengers and Tony Stark have known there is a shape-shifting alien Skrull infestation on Earth. But they couldn't detect the Skrulls and can't trust anyone to be who they seem to be. Including themselves.

This has sent the heroes into a tailspin of mistrust. But now the invasion has begun. An invasion masterminded by the once-exiled queen Veranke of the Skrull Empire. A religious extremist who believes that the Earth is part of the Skrull Empire and has been decreed so in the writings of the Skrull Book of Worlds

The queen is one of several Skrull agents that have replaced key members of the Earth's world of super-powered protectors. She chose Jessica Drew, once an agent of Hydra, once an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. And now an Avenger.

As far as the Avengers know, Jessica had lost her powers and Hydra had offered to get them back for her if she would act as a double agent. She went directly to S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Nick Fury and told him the truth, but Fury, surprised Jessica by telling her to take the deal.

She was working in secret with Fury until Fury quit S.H.I.E.L.D. and went underground. Since then she has been a double agent reporting only to Fury but Fury is no longer in charge.

As far as the Avengers know, every day has been a death-defying double cross for Jessica. And then Captain America made her an Avenger, putting her in even more danger. Putting her in a horrible position. The Avengers agree to work with her and Fury to find out who is behind all the mysterious goings-on.

But this is what really happened...

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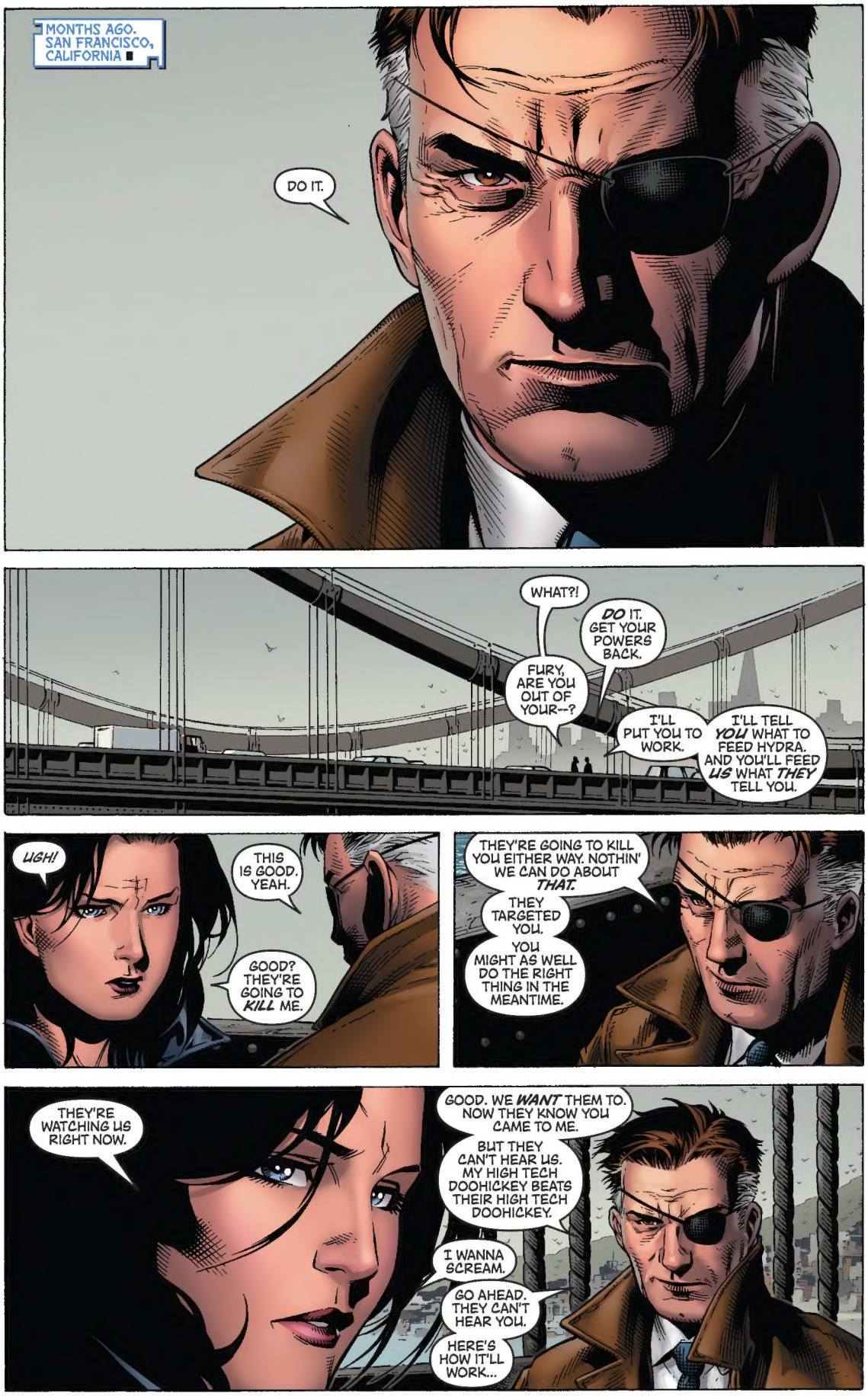

MONTHS AGO. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
DO IT.
WHAT?!
DO IT. GET YOUR POWERS BACK.
FURY, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR--?
I'LL PUT YOU TO WORK.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO FEED HYDRA. AND YOU'LL FEED US WHAT THEY TELL YOU.
UGH!
THIS IS GOOD. YEAH.
GOOD? THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME.
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU EITHER WAY. NOTHIN' WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
THEY TARGETED YOU.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO THE RIGHT THING IN THE MEANTIME.
THEY'RE WATCHING US RIGHT NOW.
GOOD. WE WANT THEM TO. NOW THEY KNOW YOU CAME TO ME.
BUT THEY CAN'T HEAR US. MY HIGH TECH DOOHICKEY BEATS THEIR HIGH TECH DOOHICKEY.
I WANNA SCREAM.
GO AHEAD. THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.
HERE'S HOW IT'LL WORK...

HYDRA BASE, LOCATION UNKNOWN
JESSICA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
OVER TIME, YOUR GENETIC CODES, WHICH YOUR FATHER ALTERED IN YOUR YOUTH, WORKED TO CORRECT THEMSELVES.
YOUR BODY HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO "HEAL" ITSELF TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE.
IT TOOK A FEW MONTHS BUT WE WERE ABLE TO ISOLATE AND REJUVENATE A SAMPLE OF YOUR GENETIC TISSUE AND CLONE IT.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME--
--BUT WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU YOUR POWERS BACK.
I MUST TELL YOU JESSICA...
YOUR FATHER WAS DECADES AHEAD OF HIS TIME.
YOU ARE AN INSPIRED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT.
YOU SHOULD BE OH SO PROUD.
HAIL HYDRA.

SHE'S OUT.
SHALL WE PROCEED, MY QUEEN?
LET'S.
FOR THE GLORY.

AAGGHH!
GRAK=
WE HAVE NO MORE TIME TO WASTE ON YOU! YOU MUST DO IT NOW!
ARN=
YOU MUST DO IT!

The blood of a human.
The blood of a female.
The blood of Jessica Drew.
The blood of the Spider-Woman.
The blood of an agent of Hydra.
The blood of an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.

I am a human.
I am a female.
I am Jessica Drew.
I am the Spider-Woman.
Agent of Hydra. Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.
FOR THE GLORY.

NEW YORK CITY
WEEKS LATER
OKAY, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT NOW.
HOW DO WE GET JESSICA DREW BACK INTO S.H.I.E.L.D. WITHOUT SENDING UP A RED FLAG?
FOGGER SHIPPING
RED FLAG MEANS?
WITHOUT CASTING SUSPICION.
YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE ENGLISH COLLOQUIALISMS BY NOW.
I'M WORKING ON IT. IT'S BEEN ALL OF TWO DAYS I'M LIKE THIS...
HERE'S HOW IT IS RIGHT NOW.
THERE ARE EXACTLY TWO AGENTS IN CHARGE OF THE WHITE CODE S.H.I.E.L.D. PERSONNEL SECURITY DATABASES.
TWO. THAT'S IT.
AND WE ALREADY HAVE SWITCHED ONE OF THEM OUT FOR ONE OF OURS.
THAT'S ME.
HE WILL BE TASKED TO TEST YOU FOR REASSIGNMENT AND GREENLIGHT YOU.
YOU'LL GET IN AND BE ASSIGNED A GRUNT JOB. ONE THAT WE PICK. I'LL PERSONALLY RECOMMEND YOU.
AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.
ON YOUR COMMAND WE'LL HAVE DOZENS OF AGENTS IN HYDRA AND S.H.I.E.L.D. SWITCHED OUT AND READY TO GO.
THE WORD IS GIVEN.

BUT WE STICK TO THE FIRST WAVE PLANS.
THREE TARGETS.
THE VIBRANIUM MINES, THE MUTANT POPULATION GROWTH PROBLEM, AND SUPER-POWERED COMMUNITY.
VIBRANIUM CAN BE USED TO MAKE WEAPONS THE EMPIRE CAN'T FIGHT BACK AGAINST.
IT'S THE ONLY THING ON THE PLANET WE CAN'T COMBAT.
SO WE TAKE IT AND WE DESTROY IT.
THAT MEANS THE SAVAGE LAND AND WAKANDA.
WE'LL LET OUR PEOPLE IN S.H.I.E.L.D. DO THAT.

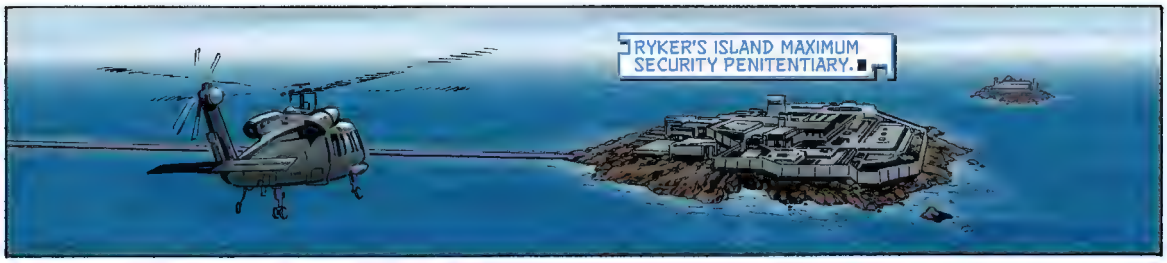
YOU'LL CREATE WHAT WILL APPEAR TO BE A CORRUPT FACTION OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
DISGRUNTLED FURY LOYALISTS OUT FOR A PAYDAY.
MAYBE WE'LL EVEN LET THEM GET CAUGHT.
LET EVERYONE START POINTING FINGERS AT EACH OTHER.
FURY IS OUT. THIS NEW GIRL MARIA HILL IS IN.
NO ONE KNOWS OR CARES ABOUT HER. WE'LL SET HER UP TO TAKE THE FALL.
SHE MIGHT AS WELL CHANGE HER NAME TO *PATSY* FOR WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO TO HER.

THE MUTANT POPULATION IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. THERE'S JUST TOO *MANY* OF THEM.
NOW THEY HAVE THEIR OWN *ISLAND*. *THEY* HAVE REAL ESTATE.
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM THAT IF *SOMETHING* ISN'T DONE TO THIN THE HERD... THIS MIGHT ALL BE FOR NOTHING.
A FIGHT AGAINST AN *ARMY* OF EARTH'S MUTANTS WE *CANNOT* WIN.
AND THE MORE MUTANTS THERE ARE... THE MORE CHANCE OF ONE OF THEM GAINING A POWER THAT SPECIFICALLY *OUTS* US.
THE ONLY THING FOR US TO WORK WITH ON *THIS* FRONT IS THE UNBELIEVABLE *RACISM* THE HUMAN RACE HAS TOWARDS THEM.

THE HUMANS HATE MUTANTS BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY MAKE HUMANS ALMOST INSTANTLY EXTINCT.
YES. OBVIOUSLY.
BUT THE HATE CRIMES. THE RACISM. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO HEAT THAT UP MORE.
GET THEM TO START FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
THE MORE CASUALTIES, THE BETTER FOR US.
AND THAT GOES *DOUBLE* FOR THE SUPER-POWERED HUMAN POPULATION.

WE HAVE TO START AT THE TOP OF THE LIST AND START TAKING OUT THE BIGGER GUNS ONE AT A TIME.
I'M TALKING ABOUT HUMANS AND MUTANTS LIKE DOCTOR STRANGE, DOCTOR DOOM, NAMOR, THE SCARLET WITCH, HERCULES...
WE GOT LUCKY WITH THOR DYING.
EXCEPT THAT MAKES WANDA MAXIMOFF EVEN MORE OF A CONCERN.
YES.
AND REED RICHARDS AND THAT #$%^ TONY STARK.
WE SHOULD KILL THEM NOW.
I CAN *BE* SUE STORM.
I CAN KILL RICHARDS IN HIS *OWN BED*.
TONIGHT.

NO. NO.
THOSE TWO...
THEY ANSWER FOR THEIR CRIMES.
AND THEY DO SO ON A SKRULL WORLD.
AFTER-- AFTER THEY WATCH THEIR PLANET FALL.
THEN THEY ARE PUNISHED.
AND THEN THEY ARE KILLED.
IN THE THRONE CITY OF GALAX.
I UNDERSTAND.
BUT FOR NOW--FOR NOW WE WILL ENJOY WATCHING THEM DO AS MUCH DAMAGE TO THEMSELVES AS WE CAN POSSIBLY HELP THEM DO.
FEED THEIR ALREADY INHERENT MISTRUST, PARANOIA, HATRED, RACISM...
THAT WILL BE FUN.
I TELL YOU THOUGH, IF FURY WAS STILL RUNNING THE SHOW, THIS WOULDN'T BE HALF AS EASY.
DON'T GET COCKY.
HE'S STILL OUT THERE.
THIS WILL NOT BE EASY.
MOST OF US WILL DIE BEFORE THIS IS OVER.
SO WHERE DO YOU WANT JESSICA DREW TO BE STATIONED?
WHERE THE MOST MADNESS CAN BE UNLEASHED WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF SUSPICION.


RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.

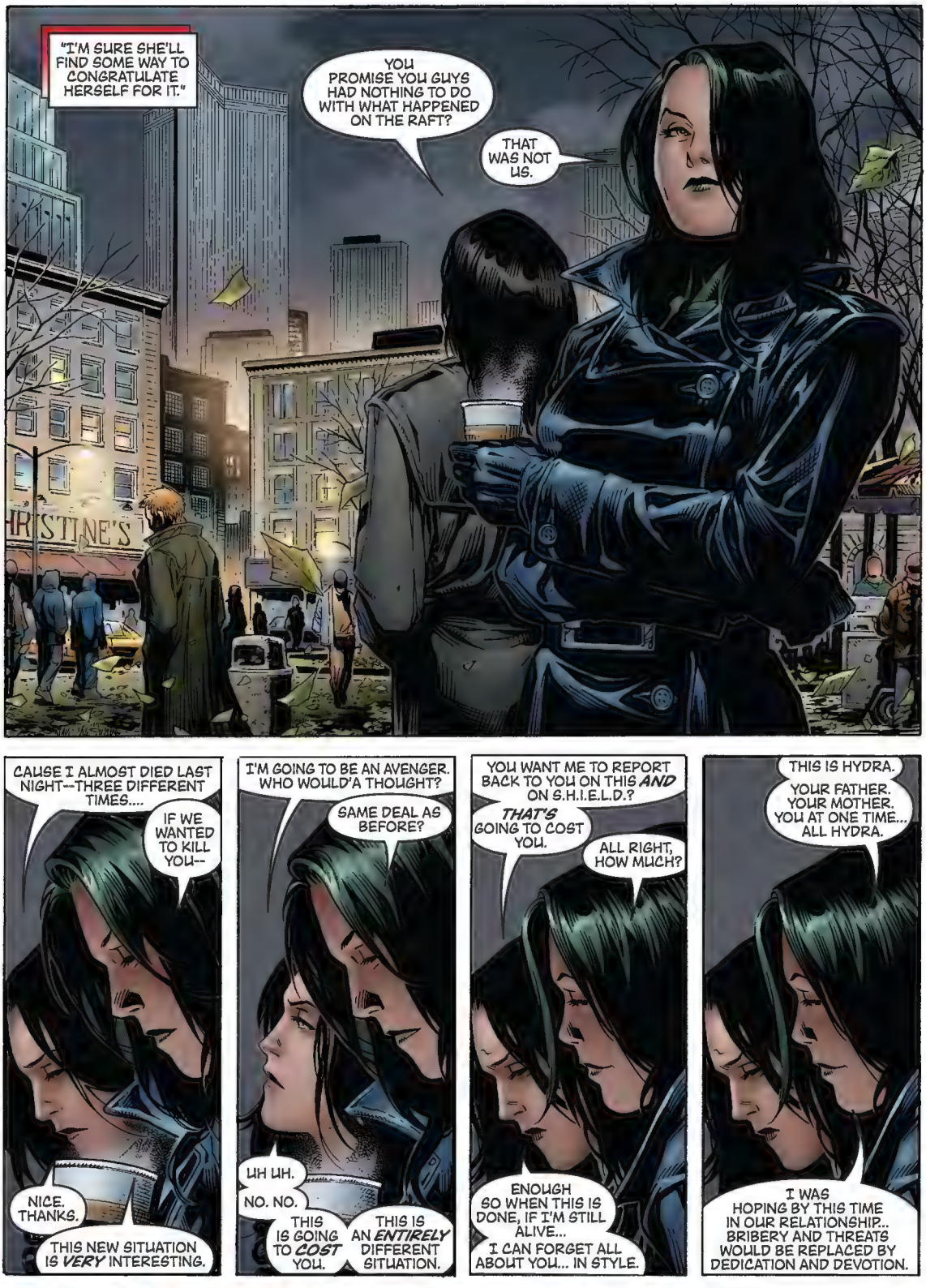
THE RAFT, RYKER'S MAXIMUM, MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.

MATTHEW MURDOCK, I'M JESSICA DREW, IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO MEET YOU.
SPIDER-WOMAN.
THE FIRST AND BEST.

"SO, MISS DREW, ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, HOW DID IT GO?"
"MAX DILLON..."
"ELECTRO."
"...DID EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS HIRED TO DO."
"YEAH, IT WAS A SHOW. SAW IT ON THEIR INTERNET."
"FIFTY-SOME POWERED CRIMINALS RUNNING LOOSE IN THE WORLD.
"DOZENS OF DEAD S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS.
"DOZENS MORE WE CAN EASILY REPLACE IN THEIR HOSPITAL BEDS.
"SILVER SAMURAI IS OFF TO JAPAN, KARL LYKOS IS OFF TO THE SAVAGE LAND.
"AND A POTENTIALLY CORRUPT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS TO BLAME."
"I SMELL A BUT COMING..."

"BUT I THINK WE ACCIDENTALLY PUT THE AVENGERS BACK TOGETHER."

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CENTER, HANK PYM'S LABORATORY
REALLY?
OH YES.
AND WE CAN ADD ANOTHER NAME TO THE "BIG GUN TROUBLE" LIST. THE SENTRY.
THEY DIDN'T EVEN CALL ME!
YOU WEREN'T THERE.
HANK PYM WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS.
YOU WEREN'T THERE FOR THIS. THESE ARE THE NEW AVENGERS.
THEY ALWAYS TREATED HANK LIKE CRAP.
WHO ASKED YOU TO JOIN?
CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF.
FOR THE GLORY I COULD HAVE KILLED HIM RIGHT THERE.
OKAY, SO, THEY INVITED YOU AND YOU SAID...
I SAID I'D THINK ABOUT IT.
YOU HAVE TO DO IT.
I KNOW.
I'LL BE LIVING IN TONY STARK'S HOUSE. MY EYES RIGHT ON HIM.
IT'S PROBABLY THE ONLY WAY WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO CRACK HIS TECHNOLOGY.
THIS IS A SIGN.
IT IS.
DOES MADAME HYDRA KNOW?
I'M MEETING HER IN AN HOUR.


"I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO CONGRATULATE HERSELF FOR IT."
YOU PROMISE YOU GUYS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED ON THE RAFT?
THAT WAS NOT US.
HRISTINE'S
CAUSE I ALMOST DIED LAST NIGHT--THREE DIFFERENT TIMES....
IF WE WANTED TO KILL YOU--
NICE. THANKS.
THIS NEW SITUATION IS *VERY* INTERESTING.
I'M GOING TO BE AN AVENGER. WHO WOULD'A THOUGHT?
SAME DEAL AS BEFORE?
UH UH.
NO. NO.
THIS IS GOING TO *COST* YOU.
THIS IS AN *ENTIRELY* DIFFERENT SITUATION.
YOU WANT ME TO REPORT BACK TO YOU ON THIS *AND* ON S.H.I.E.L.D.?
THAT'S GOING TO COST YOU.
ALL RIGHT, HOW MUCH?
ENOUGH SO WHEN THIS IS DONE, IF I'M STILL ALIVE... I CAN FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU... IN STYLE.
THIS IS HYDRA.
YOUR FATHER. YOUR MOTHER. YOU AT ONE TIME... ALL HYDRA.
I WAS HOPING BY THIS TIME IN OUR RELATIONSHIP... BRIBERY AND THREATS WOULD BE REPLACED BY DEDICATION AND DEVOTION.
SPARE ME.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU.
YOU GOT ME WHERE YOU WANT ME. I HAVE YOU WHERE I WANT YOU.
JUST *PAY* ME.

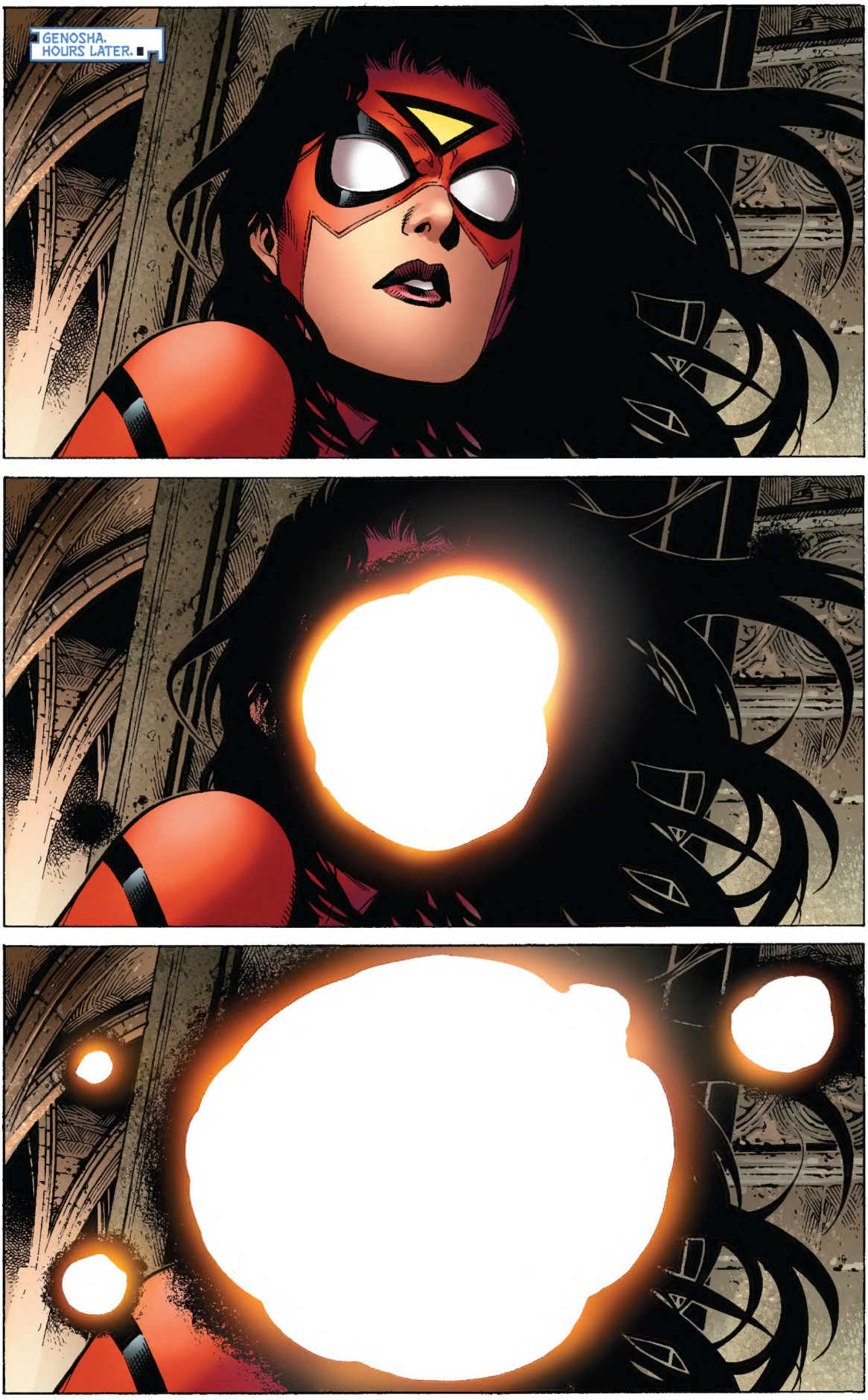
"I'LL BE YOUR SPIDER-WOMAN."
ALL RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE I'M A SUPER HERO AGAIN.
--AND HAWKEYE'S GOT HIS ARROW OUT AND HE'S POINTING IT RIGHT AT WONDER MAN'S BUTT.
AND HE SAYS "YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS THAT SHOWER AND I SWEAR TO GOD..."
AND THEN WANDA (THE SCARLET WITCH)--SHE'S WALKING BY AND SHE DOES ONE OF HER HEXES AND TURNS HIS BOW INTO PUDDING.
IS THAT WHAT THAT WAS?
ALL THESE YEARS I NEVER KNEW HOW THE CHOCOLATE PUDDING GOT INTO THE BATHROOM.
WHAT DID YOU THINK IT WAS, JARVIS?
WITH THIS GROUP, YOU NEVER KNOW...
WHERE IS WANDA MAXIMOFF?
I'M SORRY...
SHOULD--SHOULD I HAVE NOT ASKED THAT?

SHE, UM, SHE HAD A BREAK-DOWN.
WELL, WHEN YOUR FATHER'S MAGNETO...
THAT DAY AT THE MANSION. WHEN IT ALL WENT TO HELL... THAT WAS HER.
THAT WAS *HER?*
OH MAN.
SHE'S NOT A BAD PERSON, LOGAN, SHE'S A *SICK* PERSON.
YEAH, WITH A TERRORIST FOR A DAD, STARK. I'M SURE IT DOES A NUMBER ON A KID.
SORRY I--
IT'S OKAY. YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
I HOPE SO. SHE'S WITH HER FAMILY NOW.
IS SHE OKAY?
SHE'S WITH *MAGNETO?*
IT'S HER FAMILY.
WELL, I'M SURE AIN'T NOTHING BAD WILL COME A THAT.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE. PRESENT LOCATION: 1000 FEET OVER LANGLEY, WEST VIRGINIA
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, DIRECTOR HILL?
YES, AGENT DREW... I'M DYING TO KNOW... WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING AN AVENGER?
WELL, MS. HILL, OTHER THAN MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE ALWAYS TRYING TO KILL YOU, IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
AN AVENGER NOW.
YES, MA'AM.
WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU SPOKE TO THE WOMAN WE CALL MADAME HYDRA?
YOU KNOW, THE TERRORIST.
THAT'S IN MY FILE.
HOW UP TO DATE IS THAT FILE. DOES IT INCLUDE... RECENTLY?
MA'AM?
I-I WON'T LIE TO YOU-- I GET SQUIRRELY HAVING EX-TERRORISTS ON THIS SHIP.
YOU INVITED ME HERE.
YOU MAKE ME NERVOUS. MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING ABOUT YOU.
WELL, YOUR PREDECESSOR HAD A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT FOR ME AND MY JOURNEY FROM PARENTS WHO WERE HYDRA SCIENTISTS TO NOW...
FURY DOESN'T WORK HERE ANYMORE.
CLEARLY.
DISMISSED.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE YOU, LET'S SAY, LESS SUSPICIOUS OF ME?
NO.
DISMISSED.
YOU KNOW...
I BET A LOT MORE PEOPLE DON'T TRUST YOU THAN DON'T TRUST ME.
IN FACT, I'D BE A WHOLE LOT MORE WORRIED BY THE FACT THAT MOST OF THIS SHIP AND MOST OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THOSE RENEGADE AGENTS WE FOUND IN THE SAVAGE LAND...
...HATE YOUR GUTS.
DISMISSED.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY WEARING AN EYEPATCH.
GLEE GLEE
YES.
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHY AREN'T YOU HERE?

AVENGERS TOWER.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE X-MEN ARE HERE AND WE'RE GOING TO GENOSHA AND CONFRONT THE WANDA MAXIMOFF SITUATION.
SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL AGAIN.
CONFRONT HOW?
HALF OF THEM WANT TO KILL HER, HALF OF THEM WANT TO SAVE HER.
YOU KILL HER.
EVEN IF IT JEOPARDIZES... THINGS?
IT WON'T. SHE KILLED HANK PYM'S FRIENDS.
YOU SNAP.
YOU KILL HER.
AFTER, WE'LL SWITCH YOU OUT.


GENOSHA.
HOURS LATER.

TO BE CONTINUED...